

Utah - Resources

Winter and summer grazing. Fine wool sheep predominate on the ranges and grazing areas. The range herds spend the summers on the high altitude ranges in the mountainous sections of the central portion of the state and migrate each fall distances varying from 50 to 300 miles to the desert ranges in the eastern, southern, and western portion of the state.

Sheep are now using the larger portion of the desert ranges and more than half of the summer ranges. In addition to this area Utah sheep are using some ranges in adjoining states. This latter usage, however, is offset almost entirely by the use of Utah ranges by sheep from adjoining states.

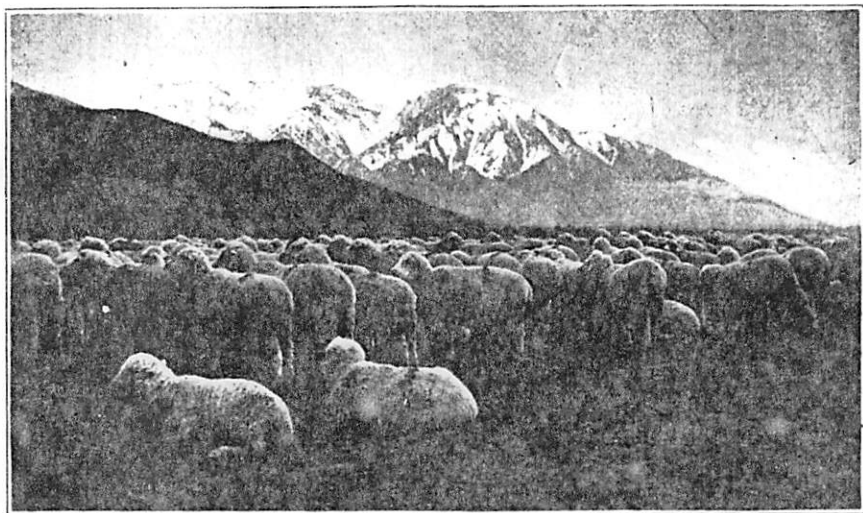


FIGURE 77—Utah mountain ranges are ideal for grazing.

The open desert makes the handling of large herds practicable in winter while the timbered, mountainous summer ranges make the smaller bands more desirable. The mature, hardy plant growth of the desert is also less susceptible to injury from the larger bands than the tender, succulent summer forage.

On the desert, sheep are kept moving to fresh range while during the lambing season and on the summer ranges it is desirable not to permit the use of the same bed ground more than two or at most three nights in succession.

Breeds. In recent years the fine wool sheep have yielded to some extent to mutton types of English origin. This is true especially where farm flocks are being established, and it is likely that the English breeds will become more prominent in the Utah sheep industry with an increase in the number of farm flocks.

The introduction of the mutton breeds and their influence on wool and lamb production has presented a problem in the state concerning the relative advantages of fine wool sheep and crossbreds for range sheep production. Wool has always held an important place in the sheep business, and sheepmen who have been interested primarily in fine wool production will need to decide whether they can continue to compete successfully without resorting to

Like the mountain above, this hilly grazing land also is between 5000 and 10,000 feet above sea level.

Ewing Galloway

